

CONFEDERATE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
(OLD COURT HOUSE AND STATE HOUSE)

WASHINGTON, ARK.

Hemstead Co.

✓ HABS. 32-3.

HABS
ARK
29-WASH,
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PHOTOGRAPHS.
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA.
DISTRICT No 32.

HISTORIC AMERICAN • BUILDINGS SURVEY
LAWSON L. DELONY DISTRICT OFFICER.
807 SOUTHERN BLDG. LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

CONFEDERATE STATE CAPITOL
Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas

1

HISTORICAL NOTES:

Located in Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas. The first Court House of Arkansas was built 7 miles northwest of Washington and was an old log building. Steven Austin, an immortal Texas patriot, then a Federal Judge for Arkansas Territory, held the first court that sat in the first court house. This building is now gone.

Because of the location of this old courthouse, the seat of justice was removed to Washington. The committee to select the site for the courthouse was named in 1828 and was composed of the following: James Moss, Hewiatt Burt, Merrith Edwards, J. B. Davis and Elizah Stuart. Building was constructed from the heart of good lumber. It is a two story frame building about 50 feet square and was erected with free labor and required five years to complete. James Moss, serving from 1828 to 1832, was the first Judge. There was one Legislative meeting in this old building ~~and was~~ in 1863.

Gov. Flanagan, Governor at that time, issued many war orders and one of them was the transferring of the State Capitol to Washington after the capture of Little Rock by the Union Forces. Washington remained the capitol until the close of the war.

It was an uncommon sight to see slaves being sold from the steps of this old building and among the leading attorneys who practiced there, were: Augustus H. Garland, James K. Jones, Dan W. Jones, John A. Eakin, G. D. Royston, Albert Pike, William Trimble, Bernard F. Hempstead, Judge Rose and B. B. Battle.

The town of Washington bought the old building in 1875, and it was used as a school house until 1914. Residence and office of Justice of Peace, until 1930, when the Cleburn Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, at Hope, originated the idea of reconditioning the old building as a War Memorial Building. The building is now for use of the U. D. C. of the State, and is in good state of preservation.

Lawson L. Drury.

Source of information:

High Lights of Arkansas History by Dallas Herndon, pp 101.

Mrs. Charlean Moss Williams, Washington, Arkansas.

Article by Katie McDaniel appearing in Washington Telegram.

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.

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CONFEDERATE STATE CAPITOL OF ARKANSAS
(Old Court House and State House)
Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

One of the reasons for the box-like appearance of this building is the poor proportion of the plan -- thirty-four feet by forty-four feet. Generally, a rectangle almost square does not have a pleasing appearance.

In the court room on the first floor are two solid log columns which carry ten by twelve inch hand-hewn girders, supporting the floor of the Masonic Hall and other small rooms upstairs. In 1930 the Capitol was reconditioned. Even the brick base was rebuilt with concrete footings and metal grilles.

by Henry Chandler Forman
May 1936